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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/748,713	12/21/2000	Clarence C. Lee	12980-0101 (251210)	4540

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EXAMINER

KUMAR, PREETI

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1751

DATE MAILED: 12/03/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/748,713

Applicant(s)

LEE, CLARENCE C.

Examiner

Preeti Kumar

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 8-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 8-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Claims 1-7 and 17-20 are cancelled. Claims 8-16 are pending.
2. The rejection of claims 8-20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reinwald et al. (US 4,255,148) is withdrawn in light of applicant's amendment to the claims submitted in paper no.10.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 8-16 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

New Grounds of Rejection

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

5. Claims 8-13 and 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Tcheou et al. (US 6,048,368).

Specifically regarding claims 8 and 16, Tcheou et al. teach a more effective method of treating a spot or stain on a textile fabric, the method comprising the steps of: applying a detergent composition to the spot or stain; placing an absorbent layer adjacent to one side of the textile fabric in the region of the spot or stain; and applying heat, pressure, or heat and pressure, to the opposing side of the textile fabric in the

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region of the spot or stain, preferably in the presence of a hydrophilic solvent, or water, so that some or all of the spot or stain is absorbed into the absorbent layer. The detergent composition can be applied to the textile fabric using a container having a cap to which a foam pad is secured. The cap has a small opening through which the detergent composition can pass. See abstract.

Specifically regarding claim 9, Tcheou et al. teach that the absorbent layer may be any absorbent means which is generally compressible, conformable, and capable of absorbing and retaining liquids. The absorbent pad may be manufactured in a wide variety of sizes and shapes (e.g., rectangular, round, asymmetric, etc.). Examples of suitable absorbent materials include comminuted wood pulp, creped cellulose wadding; meltblown polymers; chemically stiffened, modified or cross-linked cellulosic fibers; tissue including tissue wraps and tissue laminates; absorbent foams; absorbent sponges; superabsorbent polymers; absorbent gelling materials; or any equivalent material or combinations of materials. The configuration and construction of the absorbent pad may also be varied (e.g., the absorbent pad may have varying caliper zones, a hydrophilic gradient, a superabsorbent gradient, or lower average density and lower average basis weight acquisition zones; or may comprise one or more layers or structures). Further, the size and absorbent capacity of the absorbent pad may be varied. See col.7, ln.45-65.

Specifically regarding claims 10 and 12-13, Tcheou et al. teach that cleaning solution comprises various surfactants, builders and solvents as recited by the instant claim. See col.4-7.

Specifically regarding claim 11, Tcheou et al. teach preferred hydrophilic solvents are: water (including aqueous solutions); alcohol (ethanol, IPA); glycol ethers including diethylene glycol, triethylene glycol and ethylene glycol; ethylene cyanohydrin; ethanol amine and triethanolamine. See col.7, ln.33-37.

Specifically regarding claim 15, Tcheou et al. teach bleaching agents may also be useful in the method of the present invention for treating bleachable stains. The bleaching agents may be incorporated into the compositions or may be added as separate bleaching compositions. Peroxide bleaching agents are most preferred. See col.7, ln.37-42.

Figures 1-10 illustrate a portable device for treating soiled fabric as recited by the instant claims. Accordingly, the teachings of Tcheou et al. appear to anticipate the material limitations of the instant claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tcheou et al. (US 6,048,368).

Tcheou et al. are relied upon as set forth above.

Tcheou et al. do not specifically teach the claimed enzymes as recited in the instant claims.

However, Tcheou et al. teach that enzymes can also be incorporated into the composition in general. See col.6, ln.52.

Thus, it would have been obvious, to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made to modify the teaching of Tcheou et al. with the specified

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enzymes as recited in the instant claims because Tcheou et al. provide suggestion to incorporate enzymes in general in an analogous device comprising an analogous cleaning solution.

Conclusion

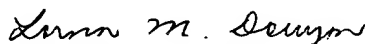
7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Preeti Kumar whose telephone number is 703-305-0178. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00am - 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Yogendra N. Gupta can be reached on 703-308-4708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9310.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-872-9309.

Preeti Kumar
Examiner
Art Unit 1751

PK


LORNA M. DOUYON
PRIMARY EXAMINER